

POSTSCRIPT:

Not until I finished typing this letter, that I discovered a gem of a book that I bought and stored away for posterity, and that it contained a graphic review of the JFK assassination, - up to and after, - in precise chronological order, - all events leading to and after.

It was still in the corrugated package, - and although I had unsealed it and peeked in it, and seeing the painful photography, I tucked it away, and said to myself, "Enough is enough"! - I had already seen too much on television to break my heart!

After this letter, I read every word in it, and rediscover that it is a master-piece of reporting, titled, "The Torch Is Passed", - written by Saul Pett, Sid Moody, Hugh Milligan and Tom Menshaw. Supervising Editor - Keith Fuller. The title is a passage from Kennedy's inaugural address.

I have made photo-copies of the roster of 153 contributing names, and titles and page numbers of 98 photographs that documents the events including the 4 Net-Works and 5 members Newspapers, - which I will be enclosing for your further reference.

You may probably have an edition of this book, - if not, - by all means get one! It is the product of many journalists that perhaps you already know.

The accounts of these star reporters and Net-Works dispels many erroneous suppositions, - and confirms many others.

It contains the psychological make-up of Lee Harvey Oswald: as a child, teen-ager, young adult, son of a widowed mother, his school days, his service in the Marines, his disciplinary problems in the schools and the Marines, - his scornful unbridled personality, his psychiatric evaluation by his superiors, his resentment and hatred for his native country, his departure to Russia and his marriage to a Russian girl. All these factors pieced together like a Jig-Saw puzzle, elucidates a troubled mind capable of violence of the highest degree!

These reports are not fiction, but factual assessments by experts and associates. There are many more facts of the assassination evaluated in this book, including the psychological make-up of Jack Ruby and his state of mind after his knowledge of the assassination.

This book to my mind, "THE TORCH IS PASSED", is a master-piece of reporting!!

A FOREWORD

One yearns even now, with an almost irresistible force, to be able to file the disclaimer frequently seen at this stage of a book: "All of the characters herein portrayed are fictitious and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental." But the fact won't be wished away and the long night remains, not a bad dream, but a reality to haunt us all the days of our lives.

There is implicit in all human tragedy a waste, a pointlessness. Tragedy unobserved is even more pointless. But tragedy unremembered surely must rank with profound sin. Thus, this chronicle of four days in November, 1963, is written, not to revive shock and tears, but to remember. Thus, we write in the hope that those who come after us will find an insight and a wisdom and a workable moral out of these events which so far elude us who lived them. To those in the future who may learn from the past, this book is hopefully dedicated.

Saul Pett

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This book grew out of the work of many Associated Press men and women both on our staff and on our members' staffs who were on the streets of Dallas and Washington to report the four days in November which numbed a nation and a world.

In the 115 years that The Associated Press has gathered news around the world, nothing short of a war has required such instantaneous marshalling of people and resources by this cooperative press association. The torrent of events from that black Friday in Dallas to the sounding of taps at Arlington moved the nation through the entire emotional spectrum. While a nation could be halted, dazed and inert with grief and horror—the newsman could not.

The story required the best from The Associated Press writers, photographers and membership around the world to tell and show this incredible drama which combined murder and majesty.

The effort was not confined to newsmen in Dallas and Washington but spread to Paris, Moscow, Saigon and Tokyo and a hundred other spots which reported the reaction of a stunned world.

We are proud to present a story of this cooperative effort for historians of the future. All of the material in this book came from the AP staff and members except for two portraits by Karsh. In the interest of easy reading, it was put together into one cohesive story by a special team of writers who are listed below.

My thanks to this team and to all The Associated Press men who participated and to the members who contributed. Because of the magnitude of the story, it is possible that we have overlooked some in the credits listed below, and to them my apologies.

Wes Gallagher
WES GALLAGHER
General Manager

"The Torch Is Passed" was written by Saul Pett, Sid Moody, Hugh Mulligan and Tom Henshaw

Supervising Editor—Keith Fuller

The following Associated Press writers, editors, photographers and technicians worked on the original AP coverage of the fateful events in Dallas and Washington. Listed also are The Associated Press newspaper and broadcast members who assisted the AP in addition to their own original coverage.

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		William Allen			The Washington Post
					The New York Daily News

AP Production by Edward T. Fleming
Printed in U.S.A. by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.
Designed by Edward P. Diehl

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